



State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

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Vice Chairman
Vacant

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, October 18, 2006, at the Claiborne Building Conference Center, 1st Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Committee Vice-Chair Mr. Rizwan Ahmed called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The roll was called by Ms. Diane Didier, Support Staff for the Committee, and a quorum was established.

Committee Members Present:

Rizwan Ahmed (Vice-Chair)

Chief Robert Black
Arnold Chauviere
Joe Drago
Sheriff Ricky Edwards
Matt Farlow
Richard Gremillion

Heywood Jeffers

Lt. Colonel Mickey Morris
Lt. Colonel Robert Morris
Camille S. Perry
Pat Potier
Colonel Eric Sivula
Lt. Colonel Brian Spillman

Committee Members Absent:

Chief Freddie Drennan
Representative Daniel Martiny

Representative Francis Thompson

Representing Agency:

Division of Administration &
Office of Information Technology
LA Fire Chief's Association
LA Public Service Commission
Dept. of Transportation/Development
LA Sheriff's Association
GOHSEP
Regional Parish Homeland Security &
Emergency Preparedness Directors
Committee
LA Senate Select Committee on
Homeland Security
LA State Police
LA National Guard
LA State Senate Judiciary B Committee
Dept. of Health & Hospitals
Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections Services
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Representing Agency:

Police Chief's Association
LA House of Representatives Committee
on Administration of Criminal Justice
LA House of Representatives Special
Committee on LA Homeland Security

State/Parish Agency Representatives Present:

Clay Henry	Region 4 Iberia OHSEP
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion	Region 6 Rapides OHSEP
Sgt. Michael Murphy	Region 2 Baton Rouge OHSEP
Gary Peters	Region 8 Ouachita OHSEP
Michael Ranatza	LA Commission on Law Enforcement

State/Parish Agency Representatives Absent:

John Butterick	Region 5 Calcasieu OHSEP
Sandy Davis	Region 7 Caddo/Bossier OHSEP
Eric Deroche	Region 3 Assumption/St. James OHSEP
Colonel Kenneth Hughes	Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP
Tommy Thiebaud	Region 9 Washington OHSEP

Support Staff Present:

Diane Didier (LA Board of Regents)

**Guest List
See Appendix**

III. Approval of the Minutes of October 4, 2006

Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, Interim and Vice-Chair, asked for a motion to approve the October 4, 2006 meeting minutes. Chief Robert Black requested amending the October 4, 2006 minutes, page 3, under Sub-committee Progress Reports, 2nd paragraph to read:

Chief Black stated that the SIEC needs to evaluate the assessment survey forms in order to assist the Committee in placing the proper emphasis on either the statewide system or short-term interoperability solutions.

Chief Robert Black also requested amending the October 4, 2006 minutes, page 4, under Sub-committee Progress Reports, 5th paragraph to read:

Chief Black stated that a VOIP solution could be utilized as a short-term solution in providing interoperability to those users not currently on the statewide system. He further stated that VOIP solution could then still be utilized in the future with the statewide system.

On motion of Lt. Colonel Brian Spillman, seconded by Colonel Eric Sivula, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2006 meeting as amended.

IV. Special Presentations

Lt. Colonel Robert “Freddie” Morris introduced representatives from the Louisiana National Guard who are detailed as staff support by the Governor to assist the SIEC with the statewide interoperability system: Major Benjamin Bourgoyne, Captain Vandra Fields, Captain Jim Williams, Lt. Taysha Deaton, and Captain Kenneth Prudhomme. The National Guard team started working on the system on Monday, October 9, 2006. Lt. Colonel Morris gave an update on the Assessment Needs Survey data collected from the various parishes. They are working on the online survey as a working PDF document. The concept they are looking at is what data on communications systems are available to develop a course of action with both short-term and long-term strategic plans. The team is working at the Information System Building (ISB) in Baton Rouge. After his presentation, Lt. Colonel Morris answered questions from the Committee.

Sheriff Ricky Edwards introduced Mr. Dave Drescher and Ms. Laura Barton, representatives from Roam Secure, for the second presentation to the SIEC. Hand-outs were passed out to the SIEC and guests before the presentation. Mr. Dave Drescher gave the presentation. After his presentation, Mr. Drescher answered questions from the Committee.

Due to bad weather, Mr. Richard Silverman stated that the representative for Cyren Call was unable to attend the SIEC meeting.

V. Sub-Committee Progress Reports

Mr. Ahmed asked for the report for the Assessment Needs Survey. Lt. Colonel Morris gave the progress report for the first week of collecting data from the assessment surveys. Lt. Colonel Morris reported that there are about twenty-eight (28) parishes from which they have been unable to collect data for the survey. The National Guard team is verifying information by contacting all the Regional Coordinators to complete the surveys. He then commented that they should have made more contacts by the November 1, 2006 SIEC meeting. One parish has completed the survey.

Some parishes mistakenly believed that they completed the survey; therefore, they need to fix the system. A suggestion was made by Sheriff Ricky Edwards to add two (2) questions to the survey: 1) Do you intend to use the 700mzh system? and 2) Do you intend to answer the survey? He then suggested contacting agencies instead of parishes. Most of the agencies have the licenses for equipment, etc. Lt. Colonel Morris stated that they have contacted all the Regional Coordinators in the first week of collecting data for the surveys.

Mr. Ahmed asked for the Technology Sub-Committee report. Chief Black stressed the importance of the Assessment Survey. A suggestion was made regarding the direction of future communications categories equipment, purchases, and using the survey, if funded. How many statewide users? How much broadband is needed?

Chief Black reported on October 7, 2006, he made an SIEC presentation to the LA Fire Chiefs at their annual symposium in Vidalia, LA. There were approximately fifty (50) members present at the symposium. He asked Daphne Levenson from the Gulf States Regional Center for Public Safety (GSRCPs) to provide an overview of their organization to the members present and Mr. Aubrey Futrell provided that presentation.

Chief Black also reported on October 17, 2006, he conducted the same SIEC presentation to the St. Tammany Parish Interoperable Communications Committee in Covington, LA. There were approximately fifteen (15) members present representing Police, Fire, EMS and Telecommunications.

In the last several months, Chief Black conducted four (4) SIEC presentations to the following groups; Louisiana Police Chiefs Association, Louisiana State Firemen's Association, Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, and the St. Tammany Parish Interoperable Communications Committee. In each presentation, many of the same issues and questions were asked about interoperability and the statewide system. Those in attendance asked for guidance in solving their interoperability needs and direction concerning future communication purchases. The results of the needs assessment survey were discussed and it was found that many were not included in the report or the figures were incorrect. Most notable from each group was the fact that they had very little knowledge of the SIEC's

efforts regarding the statewide system or solutions to interoperability. Chief Black further stated that we must address this issue and focus on informing local agencies and involving them with the SIEC's interoperability solutions statewide.

Mr. Ahmed suggested creating a small sub-committee developing specifications for the type of system SIEC will need for with three to five years of minimum capabilities. He suggested discussing writing position descriptions (director, administrative support, and two technical personnel) and placing them on the SIEC listserv and at next meeting. Mr. Heywood Jeffers suggested National Guard support be detailed for six months to assist the sub-committee. Mr. Ahmed asked for volunteers. Lt. Colonel Morris offered to be on the Technology System Sub-Committee. Mr. Ahmed suggested a two-day whiteboard session in the Claiborne Building or ISB to look at short-term goals before the next SIEC meeting. Chief Black, Sheriff Ricky Edwards, Lt. Colonel Freddie Morris, and Mr. Rex McDonald, volunteered to be on the Technology Sub-Committee.

Mr. Heywood Jeffers, Chair, reported the priorities for the committee. The Governor had suggested that the SIEC to write to the Louisiana Congressional delegation and creating Congressional House Bill 1753. Jeffers will meet with Brigadier General Hunt Downer regarding the BA-7 (to be used for a one-time budget adjustment) indicating the source of funding. Jeffers also stated that a special session won't happen until January 2007, but the Revenue Estimating Conference will be held regarding the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) in December 2006. Ms. Jodi Mauroner, Division of Administration, stated that the requested funds to the LRA would have to be incorporated into future action plans to approve funding for SIEC. Requested funds could also be funded at the Federal level through grants or the National Guard could examine additional sources for grants.

Sgt. Michael Murphy commented that SIEC need a statewide strategy instead of piecemeal one to receive dedicated funding. Need to get congressional dedicated funds. Mr. Jeffers suggested preparing a bill ready for the legislative session next year. Mr. McDonald stated the need to dedicate revolving funds to do that. Mr. Jeffers suggested eliminating

users' fees. Mr. Jeffers mentioned that Colonel Henry Whitehorn, LA State Police, suggested in a previous meeting that the Committee would need \$15 million for statewide maintenance fees. Need \$14 or 15 million, but this may be \$2 million for short-term solution. Mr. Jeffers will get letter to the Congressional Delegation with Brigadier General Downer and Ms. Susan Severance for the language on the proposal to the legislatures. Mr. Jeffers will start working on legislation so it will be ready to go and for Brigadier General Downer to convince the Governor. All SIEC members need to be advocates for bill. He also suggested getting support from other local and state agencies. Sheriff Edwards suggested including local agencies to get bill to pass. Mr. Jeffers says he will call several organizations and apprise them of SIEC activities and get their insights and report results in time of the next meeting. There was a question regarding presentations at Police Juries. A suggestion was made to contact Police Juries after a strategic plan was developed.

In the absence of the Chair for the Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee, Ms. Susan Severance, no report was given.

There was discussion to amend the amount from the last motion for the BA-7 to the legislatures from \$15 million to \$20 million for maintenance and enhancement fees.

After discussion,

On motion of Sheriff Ricky Edwards, seconded by Mr. Rex McDonald, the Committee voted unanimously to approve that the SIEC Chair, Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, come up with the language requesting the \$20 million and complete the correct request form in place of the BA-7, amending the amount in the motion from the October 4, 2006 SIEC meeting, from \$15 million to \$20 million requesting funds to the Governor's Office for statewide interoperability maintenance and enhancement fees.

On motion the Committee voted unanimously to approve the \$20 million as amended.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Ahmed asked for a report from the Gulf Coast Summit Planning Committee. Sgt. Michael Murphy reported the following: Ms. Polly Snell and Ms. Daphne Levenson, from GSRCP are still working with the Holiday Inn Select to finalize the contract and will be organizing the summit. The dates are Monday, February 26 through Wednesday February 28, 2007. The GSRCP staff are working on a logo. Chief Black suggested a list of vendors. Mr. Ahmed suggested inviting other southern states that are impacted by hurricanes and tornados and will send invitations to other State's CIOs.

VII. New Business

No new business was reported.

VIII. Public Comments

Mr. Jon Cooper mentioned that the deadline to request planning funding for re-banding is fast approaching. There will be no extensions to the schedule. The SIEC should be discussing with Nextel and other vendors, comparing re-banding vs. P25 radio types. These activities must occur very soon. A suggestion was made to have this as a topic (guidelines) as a whiteboard session at the Summit.

IX. Adjournment

In the absence of further business, Mr. Rizwan Ahmed adjourned the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee meeting at 3:37 p.m.

**APPENDIX
GUEST LIST
October 18, 2006**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Major Benjamin L. Bourgoyne	LA National Guard
Cpt. Vandra Fields	LA National Guard
Cpt. Jim Williams	LA National Guard
Lt. Taysha Deaton	LA National Guard
Cpt. Kenneth Prudhomme	LA National Guard
Dennis J. Savoie	Sphere Consulting Group
Anthony Jones	City of New Orleans
Robert Hale	LSU Police
Kim Lambert	EMCO Technologies
David DiPacma	EMCO Technologies
Eddie Davis	INX, Inc.
Bill Rains	EF Johnson
Richard Silverman	DEQ
Laura Barton	Roam Secure
David Drescher	Roam Secure
Nicole Kilgore	LA State Police
Mary Bergeron	IEM
Neeraj Mainkar	IEM
Peter Rotondi	INX, Inc.